IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the quantitative detection of a target nucleic acid sequence of a HHV-8, ~~nucleic acid (target)~~ from a sample, which compris s the following steps:

a) extraction of the nucleic acid from the sample with another nucleic acid (calibrator) previously added to the sample ~~itself~~, said calibrator ~~having the same sequence of the target nucleic acid, said calibrator~~ having I) the same sequence of th target nucleic acid, apart from the region hybridizing to a target ~~the~~ probe, which is randomized with respect to the corresponding region of the target nucleic acid, maintaining the same nucleotide composition, and ii) a Tm equal to the target nucleic acid Tm +/-4°C with respect to the corresponding region of the target nucleic acid, having the same nucleotide composition, but with a random sequence, and a similar Tm,

b) mixing the extracted target nucleic acid and calibrator with a forward primer which has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, with a reverse primer which has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, ~~primers (forward and reverse) annealing to the corresponding regions on the calibrator and on the target nucleic acid,~~ with said target probe ~~probes~~ bearing a reporter and a quencher , said target probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, and a calibrator probe bearing a reporter and a quencher , said calibrator probe having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, and annealing said forward primer, said rev rse primer, and said probes bearing a reporter and a quencher to the target nucleic acid and to the corresponding randomized region on the calibrator, ~~and~~

~~with a~~ in the presence of nucleic acid polymerase with 5' -3' nuclease activity, under ~~in suitable~~ conditions to carry out a polymerization reaction, and

c) determination of the signal associated with the reporters released due to the 5' polymerase nuclease activity.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for the quantitative detection of a target nucleic acid sequence of a HHV-8, ~~nucleic acid (target)~~ from a sample, which comprises the following steps:

a) extraction of the nucleic acid from the sample with another nucleic acid (calibrator) previously added to the sample ~~itself~~, said calibrator ~~having the same sequence of the target nucleic acid, said calibrator~~ having i) the same sequence as the target nucleic acid, apart from the regions hybridizing to a ~~the~~ probe or to the primers, which are randomized with respect to the corresponding regions of the target nucleic acid, maintaining the same nucleotide composition, and ii) a Tm equal to the target nucleic acid Tm +/- 4°C

b) mixing the extracted target nucleic acid and calibrator a forward primer which has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, with a reverse primer which has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, ~~with primers (forward and reverse) annealing to the target nucleic acid and to the corresponding randomized regions on the calibrator,~~ with a probe ~~probes~~ bearing a reporter and a quencher, said target probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7, and a calibrator probe bearing a reporter and a quencher, said calibrator probe having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, and annealing said forward primer, said reverse primer, and said probes bearing a reporter and a quencher to the target nucleic acid

and to the corresponding randomized region on the calibrator, ~~and with a~~ in the presence of nucleic acid polymerase with 5' -3' nuclease activity, under ~~in suitable~~ conditions to carry out a polymerization reaction, and

c) determination of the signal associated with the reporters released due to the 5' polymerase nuclease activity.

3. (Previously Amended) Method according to the claim 1, wherein the calibrator Tm is comprised in the ±4°C range of the target nucleic acid Tm.

4. (Previously Amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein the 5' end of the probes is 1 to 30 nucleotides from the 3' end of the forward primer.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the probe is ~~probes have the~~ 3' end blocked in order to prevent the extension by the polymerase.

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein said ~~nucleic acids, said probes and said primers are DNA sequences, and the~~ nucleic acid polymerase is thermostable DNA polymerase with 5' -3' nuclease activity.

Claims 7 and 8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein said probe ~~probes~~ ~~include~~ includes a quencher label able to reduce or to avoid the reporter label fluorescence when the ~~probes are~~ probe is free in solution.

Claims 10-18 (Canceled).